



USDA



Farm Service Agency

June 2007

CASWELL County News

Caswell County USDA Service Center

Caswell County FSA
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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
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2007 COC Election Information

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency County Committee election representing producers in Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3 will be accepted June 15 through August 1, 2007. LAA 3 includes the townships of Milton, Leasburg and Hightowers. Included in this mailing is the nomination form, FSA-699A.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2, 2007

All Farmers and other agricultural producers are encouraged to participate. The County Committee provides local input on commodity price support loans and payments; commodity allotments and yields; conservation programs; disaster assistance payments and programs.

One of FSA's responsibilities is to conduct County Committee elections in an open manner that ensures accountability. County FSA Offices will provide local organizations representing socially disadvantaged groups with detailed information about the COC election process. FSA is reaching out to agricultural communities to get equitable representation on their county committees.

Groups representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, will be actively solicited for COC election candidates, and encouraged to fill out a nomination form (**FSA-669A**). Under represented farmers and ranchers are encouraged to step up and participate in their county's COC election process. Producers will notice posters and announcements displayed in businesses, churches, and other public places. COC election fact sheets can be found online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA> under the News & Events tab on the FSA homepage

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The FSA is authorized to implement the program through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The net cost for building or upgrading farm storage and handling facilities and equipment may include the following:

Purchase price and sales tax. Shipping and delivery charges. Site preparation costs. Installation costs. New material and labor for concrete pads, electrical wiring, and electric motors. Off-farm paid labor. New on-farm material approved by FSA. Attorney or archaeological study fees.

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years and all loans must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan is 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan



Emergency Loans

On May 24, 2007, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns declared a Secretarial Major disaster in the State of North Carolina due to abnormally low temperatures and freezing conditions that occurred from April 6 through April 9, 2007. The Secretarial Major disaster declaration number is S 2518. As a result of this major disaster, 47 North Carolina counties were declared eligible for Federal disaster assistance, including Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers. Caswell County was named as a contiguous county where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance, pursuant to section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

Farmers in Caswell County may apply for EM loans for physical and production losses. January 24, 2008 is the deadline for filing an application. Any farmer who suffered a production or physical loss should contact his/her office for additional information.

Crop Reports

Producers are reminded to report their planted acreage to FSA. Crop reports are required to earn payments in the following programs: DCP, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP), Conservation Reserve (CRP) and NAP. Crop reports must account for all cropland on a farm, whether idle or planted. Small grains (wheat, barley, oats, and rye) should have been reported by May 15. **All spring or summer seeded crops (corn, soybeans, sorghum, grass, tobacco, cotton, CRP, and fruits or vegetables) must be reported by July 2.** Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting occurs when a crop cannot be planted during the established planting period because of a natural disaster. Failed acreage is timely planted acreage with the intent to harvest, but because of disaster related conditions, the crop failed before it could be harvested. Acreage reports for failed acreage must be filed before disposition of the crop and producers must be able to establish, to the satisfaction of the County Committee, that the crop failed or was prevented from planting because of natural disaster conditions.

Commodity Loans and LDP

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments can be critical to the success of your operation. With that in mind, it's important to comply with the rules. To be eligible loans and LDPs, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, report how you use cropland acreage on the farm and ensure that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards.

Requesting LDPs and loans has been made easier with the CCC-633 EZ. Complete page 1 of the EZ form *before* losing beneficial interest. Once you've signed the EZ form you can submit an LDP request at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

When it comes to loans, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date you request the loan, and you must retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for a loan — even if you regain beneficial interest. Loan and LDP eligible commodities have been produced by an eligible producer, are in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. You must maintain the quality of the commodity held in farm storage throughout the term of the loan. Individuals and entities whose previous three-year average adjusted gross income, or AGI, exceeds \$2.5 million are ineligible for LDPs and market loan gains unless they can show that at least 75 percent of their AGI comes from agriculture. The total of LDPs and market loan gains you may receive is limited to \$75,000 for each crop year. That means \$75,000 for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small chickpeas; and, \$75,000 for peanuts, wool, mohair and honey. You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs. Violating provisions of the loan and LDP program may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and LDPs. The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification

